

[characterized by the fact that] wherein drying of the gel is carried out in a temperature range between 50 °C and 120 °C, with subsequent calcination between 500 °C and 800 °C, and sintering in a temperature range between 1300 °C and 1600 °C.--

-- 10. Method according to [one or several] either of Claims 1 [through 9] or 2, [characterized by the fact that] wherein comminution to the desired grain size is done before or after sintering.--

--13. (amended)  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{SiC}$  nanocomposite abrasive grain according to [one] either of Claims 11 or 12, [characterized by the fact that] wherein the  $\text{SiC}$  particles are predominantly present intragranularly in the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  matrix. --

-- 14. (amended)  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{SiC}$  nanocomposite abrasive grain according to [one or several] either of Claims 11 or 12 [through 13], [characterized by the fact that] wherein the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  crystals of the matrix show mean diameters of between 0.2  $\mu\text{m}$  and 20  $\mu\text{m}$ .--

-- 15.  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{SiC}$  nanocomposite abrasive grain according to [one or several] either of Claims 11 or 12 [through 13], [characterized by the fact that] wherein the  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  matrix has a submicron structure and a mean particle size of < 1  $\mu\text{m}$ , preferably < 0.5  $\mu\text{m}$ . --

-- 19. (amended)  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{SiC}$  nanocomposite abrasive grain according to [one or several] either of Claims 16 through 18, [characterized by the fact that] wherein the coarse  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$  crystals have a length/width ratio of between 2:1 and 10:1, preferably between 4:1 and 6:1. --

-- 20. (amended) Utilization of  $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3/\text{SiC}$  nanocomposite abrasive grains according to [one or several of] Claim[s] 11 [- 19 for the production of] in combination with backing substrates or materials to comprise grinding belts [and] or grinding disks. --

A clean net copy of claim 1 in English as so amended appears at Appendix A to this Amendment and a copy in German at Appendix B. Clean net copies of claims 4, 6, 7, 10, 13, 14, 15, 19 and 20 as so amended also appear at Appendix A.

Amended claim 1 was considered in the International Preliminary Examination report of 14 December 2001 (the claim having been submitted to the IPEA on 27 November 2001).

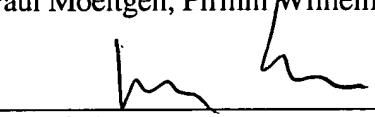
If sums are owed due to claim adjustments, please charge (or debit) Deposit Account 03-2410.

Respectfully submitted,

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